

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GREECE-US NEGOTIATIONS AND GREECE-NATO
NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. STATE 140140; B. ATHENS 4045

1. STEARNS MET WITH CALOGERAS JUNE 19 TO CONFIRM THAT US SIDE WAS PREPARED TO BEGIN SUBGROUP MEETINGS ON HOMEPORTING JUNE 23 AND ON HELLENIKON JUNE 30. STEARNS ALSO SAID THAT WE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE PREPARED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON SOFA UNTIL SECOND WEEK OF AUGUST. WE WOULD BE READY TO START TELECOMMUNICATIONS TALKS AT SUBGROUP LEVEL AROUND MID-JULY.

2. CALOGERAS SAID THAT HE WAS PLEASED THAT HOMEPORTING AND HELLENIKON DISCUSSIONS WOULD BEGIN NEXT WEEK. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED ABOUT DELAY IN SOFA TALKS, SAYING THAT CURRENT LABOR PROBLEMS AT HELLENIKON HAD FOCUSSED PRESS AND PARLIAMENTARY ATTENTION ON SOFA AND SOFA-RELATED PROBLEMS. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE HELPFUL FOR GREEK GOVERNMENT TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARLIAMENT, AND TO LABOR UNION PRESSURES BY SAYING THAT SOFA DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN JULY. AS HE HAD TOLD STEARNS EARLIER, GREEK PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN SOFA WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE AVAILABLE IN AUGUST WHEN GOG, LIKE MOST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, MAINTAINED SKELETON STAFF AND HE HIMSELF EXPECTED TO BE ON LEAVE. THIS MEANT THAT POSTPONEMENT OF SOFA SUBGROUP MEETINGS WOULD HAVE TO BE UNTIL SEPTEMBER WHICH, HE THOUGHT, MIGHT GIVE PROBLEMS TO BITSIOS

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AND CARAMANLIS.

3. STEARNS OBSERVED THAT CDR GRUNAWALT WOULD BE IN ATHENS FOR HOMEPORTING TALKS. SINCE GRUNAWALT WAS ALSO A PARTICIPANT IN SOFA SUBGROUP, STEARNS SUGGESTED THAT HE AND ECONOMIDES MEET INFORMALLY AND COMPARE NOTES ON WORK DONE ON SOFA MATTERS SINCE THE END OF ROUND II. ON THE BASIS OF THESE INFORMAL TALKS, BOTH SIDES COULD OBTAIN A MORE REALISTIC APPRECIATION OF WORK REMAINING TO BE DONE AND MOST FEASIBLE DATE FOR SOFA SUBGROUP MEETING.

4. CALOGERAS AGREED WITH THIS APPROACH, ADDING THAT CONTACT BETWEEN GRUNAWALT AND ECONOMIDES WOULD ENABLE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO SAY THAT SOFA MATTERS WERE UNDER ACTIVE DISCUSSION. THIS MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY POSTPONEMENT UNTIL SEPTEMBER.

5. AS FAR AS TIMING OF THIRD PLENARY ROUND WAS CONCERNED, CALOGERAS SAID THAT GREEK SIDE WISHED TO REMAIN EXTREMELY FLEXIBLE. ON "PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL" BASIS, HE TOLD STEARNS THAT HE HAD RECEIVED WORD THAT CARAMANLIS WISHED TO AVOID SETTING EVEN TENTATIVE DATE FOR OPENING OF ROUND III. CALOGERAS BELIEVED PERSONALLY THAT THREE CONSIDERATIONS UNDERLAY PRIME MINISTER'S DESIRE FOR FLEXIBILITY. FIRST, CARAMANLIS EXPECTED TO HAVE HIS HANDS FULL THIS SUMMER AND FALL BECAUSE OF SCHEDULED TRIALS OF JUNTA LEADERS AND COLLABORATORS; SECOND, CALOGERAS ASSUMED THAT CARAMANLIS WISHED GREECE'S DISCUSSIONS IN NATO TO PROCEED FURTHER SO THAT GREEK RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO WOULD BE CLARIFIED, AT LEAST IN ITS BROAD OUTLINES, BEFORE ROUND III OPENED; THIRD, THERE MIGHT BE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CYPRUS SITUATION WHICH COULD AFFECT ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING THIRD ROUND. CALOGERAS CAUTIONED THAT THE FOREGOING WERE EDUCATED GUESSES ON HIS PART, BUT HE REPEATED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WERE TO KEEP OPEN THE TIMING OF ROUND III.

6. STEARNS SAID THAT WE ALSO WISHED TO BE FLEXIBLE ABOUT THE DATE FOR ROUND III. AS WE HAD EXPLAINED TO THE GREEK SIDE DURING ROUND II AND SUBSEQUENTLY, FINAL AGREEMENT ON MANY OF THE PROBLEMS TO BE NEGOTIATED BI-LATERALLY BETWEEN GREECE AND THE US COULD NOT BE REACHED UNTIL GREECE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO HAD BEEN CLARIFIED. WE WERE THEREFORE IN

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FULL AGREEMENT THAT TIMING OF ROUND III SHOULD BE LEFT OPEN.

7. COMMENT: AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY WE WILL SEEK TO ELICIT GREEK REACTIONS TO ALLIED COMMENTS IN "SMALL GROUP" NATO DISCUSSIONS. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT BITSIOS OR TZOUNIS WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO SUPPLY THAN CALOGERAS.

8. IT SEEMS EVIDENT THAT GREEK VIEWS ON TIMING OF ROUND III,

FOR WHATEVER REASON, PARALLEL OUR OWN. HOWEVER, SHOULD GOG
CHANGE ITS PRESENT RELAXED POSTURE AND FOR POLITICAL OR
PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS PRESS FOR A THIRD ROUND IN OCTOBER,
WE QUESTION WISDOM OF DRAGGING OUR HEELS (REF A). INDEED,
WE CAN BEST EXERT PRESSURE ON THE GREEKS TO CLARIFY THEIR
RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF OUR BI-LATERAL
TALKS. THIS WAS THE CASE IN ROUND II WHEN ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS
WE WERE ABLE TO REMIND THE GREEK SIDE THAT PROGRESS ON SPECIFIC
BI-LATERAL PROBLEMS WAS DEPENDENT UPON THE OUTCOME OF THEIR
NATO TALKS. THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES WOULD BE AFFORDED IN
ROUND III IF BY THAT TIME GREECE'S ROLE IN NATO HAD NOT BEEN
FURTHER CLARIFIED. REFUSING TO SCHEDULE A THIRD ROUND WOULD
DEPRIVE US BOTH OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESOLVE EXISTING BI-
LATERAL PROBLEMS WHICH ARE NOT REPEAT NOT DEPENDENT ON NATO
AND OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT ADDITIONAL EFFECTIVE PRESSURE
ON THE GREEKS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THEIR MULTI-LATERAL PROBLEMS.

8. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED TO USNATO AND MILITARY
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